

10. (Amended) A [Method] method for producing plants or parts thereof having an increased tolerance against drought [and/]or fungal infections [and/]or increased salt concentrations [and/]or extreme temperature (heat, cold), [wherein] comprising:
 - (a) transfecting a plant, a plant tissue or a plant cell [is transfected] with a nucleic acid which encodes a (poly)peptide with an intrinsic affinity to plasmodesmata.
11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, [wherein] further comprising:
 - (b) regenerating a plant [is regenerated] from the transfected plant cell.
12. (Amended) The method of claim 11, [wherein, further, following step (b)] further comprising:
 - (c) [further] producing plants or plant cells [are produced] from the plant [gained] regenerated in (b).
13. The method of any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the (poly)peptide is a virus-encoded transport protein.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the virus-encoded transport protein is the potato leaf roll virus-(PLRV) transport protein p17 or a derivative thereof.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the derivative is a pr17-protein with a hydrophilic N-terminal extension.
16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the hydrophilic extension is the amino acid [MAELSGSGSELHRGGGRSRTS:] MAELGSGSELHRGGGRSRTS.
17. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 10 to [16] 12, wherein the plant, the plant tissue or the plant cells are derived from potato, from tobacco, from cereals or vegetables or are potatoes, tobacco plants, cereal plants or vegetable plants.

18. (Amended) The method of any one of claims 10 to [17] 12, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with *Phytophthora infestans*.

Please add new claims 19 to 27, attached herewith. New claims 19 to 27 are as follows:

- A3
- 19. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the plant, the plant tissue or the plant cells are derived from potato, from tobacco, from cereals or vegetables or are potatoes, tobacco plants, cereal plants or vegetable plants.
20. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the plant, the plant tissue or the plant cells are derived from potato, from tobacco, from cereals or vegetables or are potatoes, tobacco plants, cereal plants or vegetable plants.
21. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the plant, the plant tissue or the plant cells are derived from potato, from tobacco, from cereals or vegetables or are potatoes, tobacco plants, cereal plants or vegetable plants.
22. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the plant, the plant tissue or the plant cells are derived from potato, from tobacco, from cereals or vegetables or are potatoes, tobacco plants, cereal plants or vegetable plants.
23. (New) The method of any one of claims 13, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with *Phytophthora infestans*.
24. (New) The method of any one of claims 14, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with *Phytophthora infestans*.